

Safety Measures

MAP policies have established several safeguards to ensure safe medication administration. These include:

- formalized curricula and training
- standardized testing by the American Red Cross
- staff certification and re-certification
- 24-hour licensed, professional consultants
- program registration
- written policies and protocols
- medication occurrence reporting system
- routine inspections and surveys
- clinical review and evaluation
- advisory groups
- complaint response systems

Resources

If you would like more information about the Medication Administration Program, please contact:

**Department of Public Health
617-983-6700**

**Department of Mental Health
617-626-8070**

**Department of Mental Retardation
617-624-7792**

MAP

**The Medication
Administration Program**
An Introduction



**Offered by
the Massachusetts Departments
of Public Health, Mental Health
and Mental Retardation**

What is MAP?

Administration of medication is one of a number of services provided to people with mental illness or mental retardation in community programs. To ensure that the medications are administered safely, the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health and Mental Retardation established the Medication Administration Program (MAP) through joint regulations in 1993.

The regulations established a training and certification program for medication administration by program staff. The regulations also established other standards to protect the well-being of the adults living in community programs who need assistance with administration of their medications.



Objectives of MAP

The overall goal of MAP is to ensure that there are appropriate policies and procedures for safe medication administration. This helps people receive their medication while living in the community and carrying on their day to day activities. The Program makes it possible for direct care staff, who know the specific needs and concerns of each individual, to administer medication as a normal part of their daily routine.

MAP is implemented through uniform, statewide standards that undergo continuous evaluation and improvement. The Program has benefited from the experience and involvement of consumers, families, service providers and professional organizations.

The Scope of MAP

Today, MAP is part of 2,500 community programs throughout the Commonwealth serving adults with mental illness or mental retardation who cannot safely take medications by themselves. Medications are obtained only from pharmacies and administered only as directed by the health care provider. Special rules enable individuals to receive their medications from family members while away from the community program. Licensed professionals are available 24 hours a day to help direct care staff with medication administration issues.

Staff of the three Departments visit program sites to ensure that the regulations are followed. Departmental staff are also available at the regional and state level to provide oversight. In addition, MAP has the first in the nation statewide system for reporting of medication occurrences in community programs.